**Offending Behaviour Programmes: Update for OMU staff and keyworkers**

Offending Behaviour Programmes (OBPs) were paused in March 2020. We have now re-started delivery of OBPs in some prisons in line with the prison recovery framework. The health and safety of all those who reside and work in prisons is central to the decisions that we make around OBP delivery.

We do not underestimate the impact of the pause to programmes and we will continue to deliver as much activity as it is safe to do, but there will be differences in different prisons, based on the situation locally.

Before the pandemic most of our accredited offending behaviour programmes were delivered face to face in large groups (ranging between 8 to 12 participants plus 2 facilitators). Covid restrictions have meant these large group formats are not possible. For some programmes, new ways to deliver have been introduced such as smaller groups or one to one formats. We can do some telephone or video contact but not deliver the whole programme in this way. HMPPS has worked closely with the correctional services advice and accreditation panel (CSAAP) to review evidence of new alternative delivery formats and accredited these new alternative delivery formats for use. This has allowed us to start OBP delivery but it means that the number of spaces available has been substantially reduced at this time. We are keeping delivery under regular review.

No performance targets have been set for the year 2020-21. Which programmes prisons deliver will vary depending on what staff are trained to deliver, what facilities are available as well as other wider safety considerations. Training in standard formats has been paused but is now in the process of being re-started in new formats; health and safety requirements mean that training places will also be available in reduced volumes which will impact on what can be delivered. We also recognise that there are risks in starting delivery that, due to the changing circumstances of the pandemic, we may have to pause again or delay delivery where necessary. Therefore, all delivery plans remain subject to change. We are therefore not at this stage publishing delivery plans. Current information can be requested from

NationalPsychologyServiceOBPSupport@justice.gov.uk

We are continually reviewing waiting lists to ensure that allocations to the programme are made in as fair a way as possible. We are prioritising places for those who present the highest risk of reoffending on release. We do not underestimate the impact of the reduction in programme spaces and we are talking to the Parole Board and Probation colleagues about how we manage this. We understand that this is a frustrating and uncertain time for residents waiting for OBPs.

Generally we will only be able to offer programme spaces to people who are already residing at the site where the offending behaviour programme they need is available, but we are also identifying those cases where residents need to transfer and looking at ways to enable transfers where possible. A process for identifying those cases that require a transfer has been established.



If you have any questions please contact your local programmes Treatment Manager in the first instance or your local OBP SPOC. Alternatively you can contact:

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HMPPS Psychology Services Group and Interventions Services